THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1864.

PARLIAMENTARY RELATIONS OF CABINET OFFICERS

It is known to our readers that some discussion has recently arisen in Congress and in the public press with regard to the expediency of admitting the Secretaries of the several Executive Departments to seats on the floor of Congress, not with the right of voting, or even of engaging in the general debates of either body, but of answering inquiries and partaking in discussions relating to the business with which they are specially charged in their respective spheres. The Confederate States, we need not say, have adopted this policy in the image of the season of States, we need not say, have adopted this policy in the scheme of government regulated by their constitution, which contains a clause expressly granting this privilege to the Heads of Executive De-

not the issue of an irredeemable paper currency. There was a fixed standard and measure of value for the redemption of all these legal tender notes as they should be issued and re-issued from time to time. That standard was five twenty six per cent. bonds—principal and interest payable in gold. Every person who should receive these notes voluntarily, or by compulsion, knew exactly what he could do with them. He knew that the laws of Congress previded that he should have gold-bearing bonds for all the notes taken by him. The redemption in this case was not gold on demand, as formerly, but six per cent. interest in gold every six months, and the principal payable in gold within twenty years. This was the standard of value fixed by the legal tender note bill. It was in effect a forced loss from the people to the Government, but at a fair rate of interest for It has been suggested that the festure in question cannot be engrafted on our parliamentary institutions without an amendment to our Constitution, as in the case of the so-called Confederate States. A writer in the New York Times takes this view when he says:

"I agree with you as to the advantages to be derived from Cabinet officers having scats in the House of Representatives of Congress. But can this be accomplished except by an amendment of the Constitution? That declares, 'the House of Representatives sha't be composed of members chosen every second year by the people of the several Etates. Now, what right has Congress to compose the House of Representatives differently? What right has it to confer the privileges of members upon those not chosen by the people?

"The Constitution provides, likewise, that 'no person holding any office under the United States shall be a mem-

Would it not be an evasion of the letter and spirit of the Constitution to admit to the privileges of membership in the House of Representatives the highest civil function

aries of the Government?
"I know it is not proposed to allow the members of the Cabinet the right to sole as members of the House of Representatives. In my estimation, the denial of that privi lege would be of little consequence. Their presence would influence many votes, and that influence the Constitution

To these considerations and objections the editor of the Times makes reply as follows:

"There is not the slightest evidence that the Constitu-tion designed to prohibit any such thing. On the contra-ry, it makes it not only the privilege but the duty of the President to try to influence Congress; for it says: 'He shall [not may] from time to time give to the Congress in-formation of the state of the Union, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge neces-sary and expedient.' He can do that in writing or orally, just as he pleases; and in the early days of the Republic custom for him to do it personally. If the Con stitution allows him to do this in person, it is no violation either of the letter or of the spirit of the Constitution for him to give that 'information' through his Secretaries, in their person. It would be simply realizing more fully that constitutional idea; for the Secretaries, if they are worthy of their place, are far better acquainted with the details than he possibly can be, and can make that 'information' far than he possibly can be, and can make that 'information' far more complete. The end which the Constitution aims to secure for Congress is the 'information' from the Execu-tive. 'I he more effective the means of imparting that in-formation, the better is the Constitution fulfilled.

"Surely it is as much in the power of Congress to admit the Secretaries to seats in the House as it is to admit Delegates from the Territories. The Delegates are not members, because they have not been chosen, as the Constitution requires, by the people of a State. They cannot vote, yet they have been given the right to speak on any question before the House. We don't ask even as much as that for the Secretaries. Let their right to speak be limited, if thought proper, to questions affecting their own respective departments. We do not believe that they ought to mingle in general debate. The prime point is that the head of a department shall be present when notice has been given that a topic will be discussed which relates to his sphere of duty, shall present his views and facts, and shal be subject to as close interpellation as the pub-lic advantage may demand Were this done, as it is done in the English Parliament, with a lew modifications, the Executive would be held to a much stricter accountability, ed, and its conclusions far wiser and safer, in respect to all the material interests of the Government, than they ever have been, or can be, under the present system.

AFFAIRS IN THE SOUTH.

From the New York Express of Tuesday.

A gentleman called upon us to-day who says he left At lanta (Georgia) about a fortnight ago. He is a Northern man by birth, and left the Confederacy to escape the conscription He had been a resident of Atlanta for several years, and bas resided there continuously during the war He came into our lines via Cleveland, Tennessee.

When he left Atlanta, there were not many Confederate troops there, but the hospitals were filled with the sick and wounded. The railroads leading from Atlanta were all in good order, but the rolling stock, owing to constant usage, was in need of frequent repair. The Government foundries both at Atlanta and Rome were running day and night, turning out ordnance and small arms. mechanics and workingmen employed in these foundries were mostly f reigners, and nearly all of them are said to be skillful and experienced men. There was no lack of provisions or other necessaries of life, though prices were exorbitantly high in consequence of the depreciated car experimently high in consequence of the depreciated car-rincy and the schemes of speculators. An immense quan-tity of foreign dry goods had found their way into the Con-federacy through Wilmington last fall and winter, and these have been found amply sufficient to supply the more

urgent necessities of the people.
In Central and Northern Georgia there were several looms in operation, turning out coarse cloth for the army, Paper, which had all along been very scarce, was getting plentier, owing to the establishment of new paper m various parts of the State. There are four newspapers now published at Atlanta, namely, the "Confederacy," the "Intell geneer," the Memphis "Appeal," and the

In regard to the general progress of the war the genera sentiment of the people seemed to be that Generals I ee. Johnston, and Longstreet would be able not only to hold their ground, but to make occasional raids into the North They have every confidence in Jeff Davis, and express themselves certain of ultimately achieving their independ themselves certain of ultimately achieving their independence. Nevertheless, our informant says, there is under these professions a conviction that they will have to even trally succumb before the superior numbers, wealth, and resources of the North, but that conviction, of course, seldom finds audible expression. There was an attachment to the old flag and the old Union in Central Georgis for the first year or two of the rebellion, but it is now dis appearing under the influence of the radical legislation at Washington.

At Atianta, as every where else, Mr. Lincoln's emancipation proclamation was sublished in the school internal

pation proclamation was published in the ribel journals.
There was no effort made any where to keep it a secret.
The ribels were in the habt of speaking of it with discrespect. There has been no trouble with the negroes in that part of Georgia during the war. They never were more docile or more obedient, though they knew as well what was going on as their masters.

MILITARY OUTRAGES.

An investigation has been instituted by Provost Marshal Gen. Hall, of the Department of the South, into the burning of numerous buildings at Jacksonville, (Fla) and the depredations committed at that place by the Union troops at the time of the expedition last year. It is understood bat the parties proved to be implicated in firing the buildings and taking away property will be tried for arson and theft -New York Times.

MARYLAND SOLDIERS AND THE MARYLAND ELEC Tion .- The Secretary of War has, at the suggestion of the Umon Convention of Frederick, given orders for the Maryland troops to return home in time to vote at the coming election - Baltimore Clipper.

Governor Bramleste and ex Senator Dixon have left Washington on their return to Kentucky. It is stated that Washington on their return to Kentucky. It is stated that they had a free interchange of opinions with the President and Secretary of War, and both parties are in accord and harmonious as to the enforcement of the draft in that State under the amendatory encolment act.

country.

"Mr Spaulding's explanation of, and proposed remedy for, the great evil to which we have alluded, are undoubtedly correct, as an expedient towards a partial alleviation of the trouble. The adoption of his plan would doubtless reduce the premium on gold, but not to any very large

FINANCIAL VIEWS. extent. The principal merit which we discover in it, and it is one of vast importance, is the permanency in the price of gold which would ensue. Gold would at once settle down to a normal value, and we should be rid, in a Roebuck made his motion in regard to Federal recruiting The Hon. E. G. SPAULDING, of Buffalo, New York, a member of the Committee of Ways and great measure, of the constant fluctuations to which it is daily exposed. This uncertainty is a greater evil than the Means in the House of Representatives during the last Congress, has just addressed a letter to a banker in the city of New York, on what he

considers one of the principal causes of the pre-

sent fluctuations in the price of gold. After re-

ferring to the laws of Congress passed in 1791 and

1887, fixing the standard of value in the gold coin-

"The original legal tender note bill introduced by me as a necessary war measure, and which was approved by the President February 25th, 1862, changed the standard of value, not with the world at large but within the Uni-

ted States, by authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to issue \$150,000,000 of United States notes to circulate

people to the Government, but at a fair rate of interest for both the lender and the borrower.

"This was a radical change in the standard or measure of value within the United States, but it was a fixed standard established by law, and every business man could act upon it, and shape all his contracts and business transac-

upon it, and shape all his contracts and business transactions accordingly.

"The act of July 11, 1862, authorized a further issue of \$150,000,000 of legal tender notes, and required their redemption by the Government at all times, on demand, in the 5 20 six per cent. bonds; still leaving the standard of value of legal tender notes by providing for their conversion at any time into six per cent. United *tates bonds, principal and interest payable in gold. Although this was in effect a forced loan from the people, it was so fair and equitable in its terms, the peril of the country so great, and the object to be attained in crushing the rebellion so important, that no loyal citizen could object to it. There was no very great danger that the currency would become

important, that no loyal citizen could object to it. There was no very great dauger that the currency would become excessively inflated so long as every person holding green-backs, not bearing interest, could exchange them at his own will into gold-bearing bonds at six per cent. interest per annum. The Government was carried on smoothly and the war proceduted vigorously under this system up to January 21, 1864, when the 5-20 six per cent. bonds authorized by the act of the 25th of February, 1862, were avanuated."

In the mean time the standard of value for the

redemption of legal-tender Treasury notes, as our

readers are aware, was changed. The act of the

3d of March, 1863, to furnish ways and means for

the support of the Government, commonly called

the \$900,000,000 loan bill, so modified the legal-

tender note bill as to leave it in the discretion of

the Secretary of the Treasury to fix the time and

manner of issuing the bonds or notes and the rate

of interest they should bear under the act. As

Mr. Spaulding recites, it gives him the power to

issue them at six per cent., five per cent., or even

at a lower rate of interest if he deems it advisable;

but, under the modifications of the act, there is no

longer any standard of value fixed by law. It

rests with the Secretary to say, from time to time,

what the rates of interest shall be. He also has

the power to issue and reissue legal-tender notes

on demand and on time in sufficient volume to

float five per cent., and even four per cent. bonds

and notes, if he shall deem it advisable to do so;

and it is in this fact that Mr. Spaulding finds an

gold and of other commodities. No man, he says,

per cent. bonds, nor is there any provision in the

law which compels the Government to redeem

except for dues to the Government. It has, how-

ever, been the practice of the Treasury Depart-

ment during the last two months to redeem legal-

tender Treasury notes, not bearing interest, by ex-

changing for them one and two years' Treasury

notes, bearing five per cent. interest, both principal

It is in virtue of these considerations that Mr.

Spaulding enforces on Congress the propriety of

establishing the standard value of legal-tender

notes by fixing the rate of interest at which they

may at any time be converted into the funded debt

of the United States, principal and interest pay-

able in gold. He things it will be cheaper in the

end, and that specie payments can be resumed at

an earlier day, if the Government were to continue

the conversion of legal-tender notes into six per

cent. bonds, because gold will be lower and prices

es ; but, whatever the rate of interest is to be, he

deems it of the first necessity to at the rate shall

be fixed in the law it clf, so that all business men

may be able to shape their contracts and busi ess

in accordance with the public law establishing

There is undoubtedly some force in these views,

though they perhaps do not extend quite as far as

Mr. Spaulding supposes, whether considered as

indicating the source of our present financial de-

pression or as suggesting its remedy. But, as far

as they are just, they will, we are sure, engage the

attention of the present enlightened Secretary of

We appead the remarks of the Buffalo Com

concurrence with Mr. Spaulding's views, but ac-

companies them with some reservations as to the

enhancement in the price of gold. It says:

such standard of value.

and interest payable in currency.

age of the country, he proceeds to say:

THE REBEL CAMPAIGN IN MISSISSIPPI.

Late Richmond papers publish the official reports of Gen. Pemberton and Gen. Jeneph Johnston of the operations in the Valley of the Musissippi which terminated in

the fall of Vicksburg. Gen. Pemberton attributes all the rebel disasters at that place to his deficiency of cavalry. It appears, however, that Gen. Grant's strategy completely deceived Pember. ton, for from the 15th to the 30th of April he seems to have had so little information of Grant's movements as to have been unable to meet them. On the 29th of April he telegraphed Geo. Johnston that the Federal forces were at Hard Times, and "can cross to Bruinsburg;" and, on the 1st of May, that "a furious battle has been going on all day below Port Gibson." On the 2d of May Geo. Johnston replied: "If Grant crosses, unite all your troops to beat him. Success will give back what was abandoned to win it." The battle of Port Gibson won, Grant pushed directly toward Jackson. Pemberton's want of cavalry did not permit the interruption of Grant's communications, and he moved forward unmolested to Clinton Meanwhile, Pemberton disobeyed some of Johnston's orders, and, as the upshot, Grant took Vicksburg. The Richmond Enquirer says that while the verdict of history must be seriously against Geo Pemberton, there are extenuating circumstances. His army was greatly outnumbered by the raphed Geo. Johnston that the Federal forces were at Hard cumstances. His army was greatly outnumbered by the enemy, and his deficiency in cavalry prevented his ascertaining the strength and position of the enemy. The topography of the country presented many impediments to quick movements, and these were greatly increased by recent and heavy rains. Grierson's raid had deatroyed the analysis of the country presented and administration and diminished railroad and interrupted communication, and diminished his effective force by the heavy detachments required to

Gen. Johnston, in his report, states that while he was t Mobile in March, 1863, he received orders to assume command of Bragg's army and to send that General to Richmond, but owing to his ill health he was unable to comply with them. Subsequently, early in May, he was ordered to take chief command of the forces in Mississippi, which he at once proceeded to do. His first advices from Pemberton, who was in command at Vicksburg, in-formed him that Grant's movements were more likely to affect Bragg than Vicksburg, and so confident was Pem-berton that Vicksburg would not be attacked that he of berton that vicksburg would not be attacked that he of-fered to send a portion of his troops to reinforce Bragg. Before Johnston himself came on the ground, however, a great change had taken place. Grant's admirably con-called movement had begun, he had crossed the Mississip-pi below Vicksburg, and was rapidly closing in upon that point, with a view to its isolation from all reinforcements and its ultimate capture. Before Johnston was in suffi-cient strength to co-operate with Pemberton, or a junc-tion could be effected of the forces of the two rebel com-manders. Gen. Grant had rapidly forced himself, lettered manders, Gen. Grant had rapidly forced himself tetween them, and by a wedge-like process sundered them, forcing Johnston to fall back to the northward and pushing Pemperton back towards Vicksburg. The battles on the Big Black and its vicinity followed, adding new momentum to Pemberton's retrograde movement on Vicksburg:

Gen. Johnston, perceiving that if Pemberton were shut up in Vickaburg it would be impossible to relieve him and that he must ultimately surrender, sent Pemberton an order that if Haines' Bluff was untenable, Vickaburg was of no value and could not be held, and that if he were invested there his surrender was inevitable. He was there-fore instructed, in order to save the troops under his command, to immediately evacuate before he was penned up by Gen. Grant's work. Instead of obeying, Pembert in tell back into Vicksburg, and his first act was to destroy and abandon the works on Haines' Bluff, which Johnston had indicated as essential to the defence of Vicksburg, and all hope of his rescue vanished. On the same day tha Johnston sent the instruction to Pemberton for the evacua-tion of Vicksburg, he sent similar orders to Gen. Gardner, in command at Port Hudson, to evacuate that point, but

hey never reached that officer.

Both garrisons were now completely hemmed in and urrounded on all sides, and on the 15th June, Johnston surrounded on all sides, and on the 15th June, Johnston advised the rebel War Department that he had no hope of saving Vicksburg. Still, he addressed himself to plans for extricating the army at Vicksburg, by concerted movements and assaults from within and without, but they all miserably failed. On the 3d of July Gen Pemberton was miserably failed. On the 3d of July Gen Pemberton was apprized that another of these diversions would be made, and that, with a view to enable him to cut his way out, Johnston would attack Grant on the 7th. On the 4th, however, Pemberton surrendered, the fall of Vicksburg was accomplished, and nothing was left to Johnston but explanation of the present advance of the price of get out of the way of our victorious forces, which he did

to get out of the way of our victorious forces, which he did with commendable celerity.

Gen. Johnston's report concludes with severe animad-versions upon Gen. Pemberton, whom he accuses of dis-obedience of orders, which resulted in fatal consequences. He also indulges in some pointed thrusts at the rebel War Department for giving him a vast task without the means for successfully performing it. oan regulate his contracts or business affairs with any certainty. No person, when he takes legaltender Treasury notes, cap fix in his own mind what is their real value. It is no longer converti-

nergy of Gen. Grant, and evinces that from the very first inception of his campaign, his success was a foregone con-clusion, and only required time to make it as complete as, it at length resulted. them in any kind of bonds, or in any other way

SALES OF PLANTATION LANDS.

The " New South," published at Hilton Head, South Carolina, has the following notice of the late land sales in

that vicinity : "The auction sales of plantation lands in the parish of St. Heleas by the Direct Tax Commissioners have about closed, owing to the fact that preparation for the coming crop should be begun immediately; and the surveys having not yet been completed, the plantations on Port Roys! Island will be leased for the current year at the rate of about two dollars an acre for arable land, and a just compenaation for the use of buildings. The biddins at the sales has been very spirited notwithstanding threatened enforcement of pre-emption rights by persons desiring to buy under suspended instructions plantation houses and grounds at a dollar and a quarter an acre. Over ten thougrounds at a dollar and a quarter an acre. Over ten thousand acres have been sold at an average price of about nine dollar an acre, including improvements. Two bundred and eighty acres of the Daniel Pope place, on St. Helena Island, were bid off by Capt Wm. J. Randolph for \$6,050. This is the highest price yet paid. The lowest rales have been at but a trifle over the minimum rice, which is \$1.25 an acre. In one or two instances freedmen have bought the plantations on which they were formerly held as alaves, and several parties have bid ostensible for the colored people. The greater number of purmerly held as slaves, and several parties have bid ostensi-bly for the colored people. The greater number of pur-chases, however, have been made by persons from the North, who have at once gone into the work of cultivation. Persons intending at the beginning of the sales to buy for speculation have for the most part considered the prices too high for them."

THE CONFEDERATE CURRENCY.

The Richmond Examiner of the 21st of March has the ollowing interesting exhibit of the condition of the rebel

maining in circulation is taxed one third, and consequently during the week commencing Monday the holders of Treasury notes must decide whether they will keep them until 1st April and submit to the Government shave, fund the amount in four per cent. bonds, or exchange it for boods or personal property. The necessity of coming to a conclusion is 'sharpening the wits' of the people, though it is not improbable that some who esteem themselves 'wondrous wise' in financial matters will commit a blunder in disposing of their surplus cash. The ability to penetrate mercial Advertiser, which expresses its substantial degree in which they are explanatory of the roling

in disposing of their surplus cash. The ability to penetrate the future is a power which few, if any, possess, and hence the views expressed in regard to the effect of the financial legislation of Congress, after the currency is reduced, are adverse and vaguely theoretical.

"Every body knows that a ten-dollar note, after 1st of April, will only represent a nett value of six dollars and sixty-six and two-thirds cents, and accordingly the universal Jesire is to dispose of the currency in hand at this time so as to avoid this apparent loss, very few being willing to hold it with the expectation that sixty six dollars of the new currency will, in a few weeks, buy more of any article than one hundred dollars will purchase now. They must see the fact before they will believe it, but then it will be too late to profit by its development.

"In the mean time all kinds of cornering' processes are in vogue, and it must be admitted that some of them are plausible enough. For instance, it is argued that certain bonds and steks may be bought now and sold in the new "It must not be forgotten that behind all this there lies a great, original cause for the financial derangement under which we are suffering, and one to which there is no specific, or panacea, such as might be inferred from Mr. Spaulding's letter. The civil war in which we are involved is the original cause of our financial trouble, and

so long as it exists that trouble will continue. The first and the continuing effect of the war has been, and will be, and the continuing effect of the war has been, and will be, the disturbance of our foreign commerce by the sudden withdrawal from it of our great cotton staple. This, taken in connection with an unchecked and increased importation of foreign goods growing out of the alarming extravagance of the people, has created a large balance of trade against us, which must be paid in gold.

"When we remember that we have undertaken to carry on the war with this large drain of gold constantly going on, and with a simultaneous drain upon the labor of the country to fill our armies, and without recourse to foreign loans to recuperate and reinforce our currency, we feel proud of our demonstrated resources, and look upon the large premium which gold commands as much smaller than we had reason to fear it might be. The ablest State financiers of Europe have always conceded the necessity of carrying on war by the aid of loans, simply to prevent just such a financial state of affairs as now exists in this country.

"Mr Spauldine's explanation of the country of carrying on war by the aid of loans, simply to prevent just such a financial state of affairs as now exists in this country. lausible enough. For instance, it is argued that certain conds and stocks may be bought now and sold in the new currency at a decline not exceeding fifteen to twenty five per cent.—thereby saving ten to fifteen in the transmutory

have been received at the Treasury in Richmond. A new batch of the fifty cent notes is ready, and the issuing of them was begun on the 21st.

ESCAPE OF UNION PRISONNAS .- The Dayton (Ohio) ournal of Monday contains a despatch from Fayetteville. West Virginia, March 26 h, stating that three hundred Union soldiers had escaped from the rebel prisons at Danville, and were on their way North.

The Legislature of Maine has passed a resolution in avor of the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty.

lakest great at the late a top type it is grouped for it.

ROEBUCK made his motion in regard to Federal recruiting in Ireland, and delivered a speech abusive of the United States, in which he bitterly assailed Earl Russell, charging him with being influenced in his policy towards this country by the menace of Mr. ADAMS, the American Minister, and expressing his belief that Lord PALMER-STON did not approve the course of Earl Russell. Lord PALMERSTON, at the close of Mr. Roebuck's

speech, rose and replied as follows:

Sir, my honorable land learned friend has been enough to pay me come compliments; but I beg to say I can accept of no one's compliments at the expense of a colleague. [Loud Ministerial cheers.] My honorable and learned friend ought to know that it is vain to endeavor to single out one member of a Cabinet to hold him up to public obloquy, and to make amends for that by comp iments and prace to the Government at large. [Renewed cheers from the same quarter.] My noble friend at the head of the Foreign Office is no doubt the organ of the Government in all its communications, and with regard to all its relations with foreign Powers; but my noble friend at the head of the Foreign Office takes no step except in con-cert with his colleagues; and I must de 'are to the honor-able and learned gentleman who has endeavored to sepa-rate me from my noble friend at the head of the Forrate me from my noble friend at the head of the Foreign Office that I am a qually responsible with him for
every step he has taken in the conduct of every negotiat on
which seems unbappily to have excited feelings of humiliation in the mind of my tonorable and learned friend—
a feeling which I believe is not shared by the people of this
country, [cheers:] a feeling which I am confident will not
be shared by any man of impartial mind who shall look
with attention to the different steps which have been taken
in all those great transactions to which allusion has been
made. Sir once for all I beg distinctly and positively to made. Sir, once for all, I beg distinctly and positively to state that those who attempt to separate my noble friend from his colleagues will fail in their endravors, [cheers,] and betray an ignorance of the principles and practice of the Government of this country [Cheers] Be it hence-forth known—and I beg my declaration may be recorded and borne in mind—that we are all, and I am especially,

equally responsible with my noble friend for every step he has taken in this matter. [Cheers]

Now, sir, we have declared our intention to observe strict neutrality in the contest unfortunately being carried on in America, and I maintain we have kept our word and acted on our declaration. The honorable and learned genleman contends that we have dealt a different measure justice to one side from that we have dealt to the other. Well, it should be remembered that the two sides stand in a very different position in regard to the assistance which they may derive from this or say other quarter. The Federals command the sea; all their ports are open; they can go to Birmingham, Liege, or any other place where arms and ammunition are manufactured; they may buy what articles they like, ship and safely convey them to their own ports. They have the command of the mar-kets of Europe. The Confederates, on the other hand, have not these advantages. They are shut out from the sea; they can only get supplies by blockade-runners, many of which are taken and few comparatively escape. Therefore the conditions of the two parties are not equal, alh we observe an equal law of neutrality in regard to It is true that there is also a great difference be tween the obtaining ships from a neutral country and the obtaining of arms and ammunition. I do not dispute that in point of principle and our own municipal law these two things stand on an equal footing; that is to say, that by international law and obligation, if a belligerent goes to a neutral country and buys arms, cannon, and ammunition wherewith to arm large armies, he derives from that neutral a greater assistance towards deciding the war than perhaps one, two, or more cruisers can have on the ulti-mate late of the war, although they may effect the interry

But we have a municipal law which overrides in some respects international obligations, and we are bound to prevent certain things being done in this country for the benefit of one beligerent against another. We are bound not to permit enlistments and organization of men, and also to prevent the equipment and armament of ships. The one is an easy thing to prevent. The armament and equip ment of a ship is a notoriety. A ship is a tangible thing; you can see with your eyes the progress made in its construction and equipment; you can interfere at the proper moment, and lay your hand on it to prevent a breach of the law being committed. But with regard to the chlist ment of men you have not the same means. The honoramen have been made in Ireland for the Federals. That may be so or not; but, in order punish those who have been guilty of that breach of our laws, you must have proof—proof which is not easily obtained. I dare say, speaking only from common report, it is very likely there are in Ireland agents acting under the orders of the Federal Government to induce fighting men to go and enlist in the armies of the Federals; but they are much too wise and cunning to make their enlistments in Ireland. There is, we know, so great a difference between the wages of labor in the United States and the wages of labor in Ireland that in order to induce them to go it is sufficient to tell them, "Come as laborers." There is this railway and that railway this work work work to be sufficient to the railway this work work work. one shilling or shilling and six pence, you will get ten shillings a day. They are, I say, much too wise to talk of enlistment in Ireland. They induce the people to go to find a better market for their labor, and when these men land at New York there are people there to induce to enlist in some Ohio regiment or another and become soldiers, with the chance of plunder and God knows what besides [A bugh.]

[A lough.]
therefore, that though the statement of the ho I say, therefore, that though the statement of the honor-able and learned gentleman be substantially true, that in ducements are held out in Ireland to people to go the United States with the intention that when they get there they shall be inveigled into the army, yet to found any legal prosecution on these transactions you must have proof, which we are unable to get. But we have remonstrated generally on this subject, and if the honorable and learned gentleman will look into the papers which were laid before Parliament last year he will see that representations have been made to the United States Government on the re-ports and rumors which reached her M-jesty's Government on the subject. There was lately a transaction which ment on the subject. There was lately a transaction which engaged the serious attention of the Government. The K-arsage, a Federal cruiser in the harbor of Cork, was accused of having enlisted a number of men to serve in that vessel; representations were made to Mr Adams; the men were returned to the shore, and if sufficient proof could have been afforded to identify those connected that transaction, no doubt a prosecution would have been instituted My honorable and learned friend the Attorney General reminds me that with regard to some who were proved to have been accessories and victims of that in-veiglement there is a prosecution new going on. If that prosecution succeeds, and you can prove that the muni-cipal law of the country has been violated, of course representations will be made against the conduct of those of fice:s, whether naval or consular, by whom that law was violated. I can only say that in order to found a distinct and formal remonstrance to the United States, you must have proofs, which are difficult to obtain. But we have remonstrated with the United States, as will appear from the papers which were last year laid on the table of this If it can be shown that there are grounds to entitle us to make remonstrances, be sure that my noble friend will be as ready as I or any of our colleagues to vindicate the honor and the laws of the country by adequate representations to the Government to whom the infraction of our laws is imputed. [Hear, hear.]

INTERFERENCE.

There are two remarkable facts brought to light by the There are two remarkable tacts brought to light by the publication of Gen McClellan's Report. The first is, that the Western Virgioia campaign, in which Gen McClellan achieved such perfect success, was undertaken, carried forward, and finished by him without any orders of any kind whatever from Washington. No one in that city seemed to have the slightest concern in the campaign; no one even ordered him to undertake it; but the General, acting on his own responsibility, went to Western Vir ginia, and on his own plans drove out, captured, or destroyed one and another of the rebel armies until he had rescued the whole district. The other fact is, that to which we have before alluded, that the great campaign in Maryland, resulting in the victory at Antietam, was undertaken by Gen. McClellan on his own responsibility, conducted by him without order or interference from nducted by him without order or interfere Washington, and resulted in complete success and glorious victory. The contrast between these two campaigns and the Peninsular campaign, in this respect, cannot fail to be noticed. In the latter the interference was constant and persistent. Not only was the army reduced one-third, but after it was reduced the movements of Gen. McClellan were constantly hampered and obstructed by orders from washington The most minute details of his march were sometimes directed by the "commander-in-chief" in the White House. The President even tells him to look well to the effect of the Chickabominy on his position! And McClellan replies, with his unvarying courteous respect for the President, that the latter may rest assured he will not overlook a stream which has already given the army or much occuration! so much occupation! "Stretch your right wing to the north of Richmond," orders the Secretary of War. Why don't you destroy that railroad? is the constant complaining demand of the President. There was apparently no moment, from the time he left Washington till Halleck ordered him back, that Gen. McClellan had permission to exercise his own judgment, or dispose of the Army of the Potomac according to his views of what was best. It is curious and instructive to draw this contrast between the campaign in which he was allowed to judge for himself, and the campaigns in which he was managed by the politicians surrounding the President—Journal of Commerce.

IMMIGRATION -It is expected that the foreign immi gration to this country this year will be over three handred thousand persons. A proper distribution of these laborers in the localities where most needed will benefit both the country and the laborer.

THE RED RIVER EXPEDITION.

Correspondence of the St Louis Republican. FLAG SHIP, FORT DERUSSEY, MARCH 15. To understand the importance of the great expedition up Red river it is necessary to review the military situs tion in the beginning of March. Sherman had returned to Vicksburg from his grand but disappointing raid into Missasippi, and instead of directing his forces towards Mobile, the point greatest and almost the only position of vital concern to the rebels, he detached a portion of them to Gen. Banks' assistance, who, it appears, had predetermined on scattering or demolishing the forces in West Louisiana. It is altogether probable that something in the seasons had dictated this choice to Gen. Banks. For example, the Red river is only high enough to be naviga ble by the largest vessels during this month and the next while the task of taking Mobile is one which might be

undertaken at any time, though it is unaccountably strange that it was not begun in December instead of May. As is well known, the column under General Franklin crossed from New Orleans to Brashear City about the 1st instant, and thence took up the line of march along the Bayou Teche, substantially the same route pursued nearly a yoar ago, via Opelousas to Alexandria. The forces un der Gen. A. J. Smith, from the Department of the Tennessee, comprising the brigade under Gens. F. K. Smith, Thomas, and Ellet, embarked at Vicksburg on the 10th, and proceeded down to the mouth of Red river, where they found an immense fleet of gunboats ready for the as-

Touching the naval force it may be well to remark that a more fermidable fleet was never under single command than that now on the Western river, under Rear Admire Porter, and, it might be said, also, never to less purpose At the time of departure, the strength of the rebellion in the inland waters had been crushed. Its forts had been demolished at Henry, Donelson, Columbus, Island 10, Vicksburg, Hudson and New Orleans, by the gallant Feote and Farragut, united with the army. Its fleet had been sunk by Ellet, Farragut, and Davis. All that remained to be extinguished was one insignificant fort at Gordon's landing, and one ram and one gunboat on Red river. To meet this force we had collected twenty powerful was vessels of all classes, from the light draught to the heaviest monitor. Among them were the monitors Ozark, Osage, Neosho; the iron-clads Benton, Carondelet, Pittsburg, Mound City, Louisville, Essex, and Chillicothe; the rams Price, Choctaw, Lafayette, besides the lighter boats, Black-hawk, Ouschita, Champiou, and Tyler.

The twenty transports preceded by the twenty gun-boats started from the Mississippi on the 10th, and as cended the Red river as far as what is called the Old river, when we turned into the Atchafalaya instead of continuing up Red river. Many were the speculations upon our course as they saw us descending the stream instead of ascending. To a person unacqueinted with the peculiarities of this region it seems indeed strange that the water should run up and down consecutively. The whole of West L u-islana is overspread with a network of bayous which are in-terlaced with each other in a very unusual manner. In deed, though Red river is usually accounted one of the tributaries of the Mississippi river, there is abundant evi-dence to believe that at no great period back the Red river continued its course to the Gulf through the Atcha-

river continued its course to the Gulf through the Atchafataya. The latter stream is now mainly fed by the former, and should properly bear its name. We found it for twelve miles a deep and navigable stream.

At Simmsport the fleet cause to a landing. The town itself does not exist, a few chimneys alone marking the former site, having been burned up by Col. Charles Rivers Ellet, in retaliation for their firing upon his boat, the Queen of the West. Col. John Ellet afterwards visited the place with the Switzerland, during the riege of Port Hudson, when he had a severe engagement with the batteries, and freished the work of his cousin. Two new earthworks were found in course of construction and abundant eviwere found in course of construction and abundant evi-dences of the traffic across the stream at this point. A short distance up the bayou, which enters at this point, were found twenty four poutoons used for a bridge; also, portions of a raft of timber long enough to stretch across. News reached us that a camp near the river had been hastily evacuated at the sight of the fleet.

Next morning the land forces were disembarked, and marched out by sunrise to find the camp broken up, and the enemy gone; the bridge leading across the stream burning, and evidence of a fright. There were two exburning, and evidence of a fright. There were two ex-tensive earthworks still meomplete, and a prodigious raft being constructed across Bayon Glaize so as to prevent the gunboats ascending the little channel during high water. This location of their principal fortifications is water. This location of their principal fortineations is significant in two thisgs: their intention to make the Atchafslays as their line of defence, and their distrust of their ability to hold forts immediately on the banks of navigable streams. Henceforth we imagined their policy would be to hold the roads to the interior by works erected beyond the range of the gunboats. Their abandonment of Simmsport was indicative that they had lost hope of defending successfully these latter. Five miles further out, our forces overtook five teams loaded with tents, which they burnt, and loaded up the teams with sugar and molasses, which the rebels had unsuccessfully attempted to destroy. The whole column then returned to the heats.

I should not be a fathful historian if I omitted to men tion that the conduct of the troops since the late raid of name and to their efficiency. A spirit of destruction and wanton ferocity seems to have seized upon many of them, which is quite incredible. At Red river Landing they robbed a house of several thousand dollars in specie, and then fired the house to conceal their crime. At Simms port a party of them stole out and robbed and insulted a family two miles distant. In fact, unless checked by summary example, there is danger of our whole noble army degenerating into a band of out-throats and robbers. I am glad to say that Gen. Smith is disposed to punish all

ffenders severely.

It was decided that the column should march overland to Fort De Russey, the place to which, it was supposed the enemy had retreated, distant thirty-five miles. At daybreak they started, in light marching order. The boat-were steamed up the Red river, which proved to be ex-tremely tortuous and difficult of navigation. At a point sixty-five miles above the mouth, and twenty-five above Black river, we came upon a small earthwork, without guns, distant by land about five miles from the main fort. Hown piles and timbers had floated past during the day, preparing us for the evacuation above.

Meanweile the column under G-n. Smith, with Morse's

brigade in the advance, made a night march across from brigate in the advance, finale a right fraction across from Simmaport. Before they had gotten five miles out on their march they were beset by the enemy's cavalry, which kept harassing front and rear during the entire route. A comharassing front and rear during the entire route. A com-pany of cavalry, under Capt Hughes, preceded the column, skirmishing continually. Gen F. Kilby Smith, who com skirmishing continually. Gen F. Kilby Smith, who com-manded the division in the rear, was often obliged to form in line to repel their threatened attack. Notwithstanding that a delay of three hours occurred in rebuilding a bridge des royed by the flying enemy, the cutire march, thirt miles, was secomplished in twenty hours, and, as the resu showed, captured a strong position before sundown—a feat which has hardly a parallel. The country back of the fort is as undulating table land, beautiful to behold, and inha bited by descendants of the early French settlers. Indeed many of them had heleted over their purches the tri-color of France, although they have been living here receiving the privileges of citizenship for more than twenty years.

It was about three o'clock as the head of the column neared Fort De Russey: some time was spent in making cautious approaches to the position, when the lines were moved up to the edge of the timber. The fort then opened h avily with four guns, firing shells and shrapnel, our for-ces bringing two batteries into action. The cannonading continued two hours, when Gen. Smith ordered a line of skirmishers to advance, when a heavy fusilade followed. A charge was ordered; the Fifty eighth Illinois and Eighth Wisconsin led, when just as the men had reached the ditch the garrison surrendered. About this time the gunboats

made their appearance, the Eastport in the lead. The fired two shots without effect, across a rock, when the cheers of our soldiers told them the fort was ours.

The fort consists of two distinct and formidable earth works connected by a covered way. The upper part, the one facing the road from the interior, is a beautiful specimen of engineering skill, and is remarkable for the sub stantial and permanent manner in which every part is constructed. It mounted at the time of capture four constructed. It mounted at the time of capture fou guns, two field and two siege, though capable of account modating twenty. It is perhaps a quarter of a mile from the river bank and seated on the gradual slope of a ridge, the first seen on seconding the river. In the lower work commanding the river was a casemated battery of thre gues of superior construction. Upon a solid frame of twenty inches of timber were laid two layers of railroad iron, the upper tier reversed and laid into the interstices of the lower. But two gons were in position in it—one eleven inch columbiad, taken from the Indianols, and an eight-inch smooth bore. On each side were batteries of two guns cach, one a seven-inch rifle of Parrott pattern, two gues each, one a seven-inch rille of Farrott pattern, making in all eight siege and two field pieces; there were found besides large quantities of simmunition and a thousand muskets, besides flour, sugar, &c.

Our loss in the affair was four killed and thirty wound.

ed; rebels five killed and four wounded Two hundred prisoners constituted the garrison then in the fort, all of which fell into our hands, with twenty-four officers.

The troops have already re-embarked, and are on the way to Alexandria. From various sources we gather that the rebels here have about abandoned the idea of defending any of their navigable streams. As nearly as I can learn, Walker has two thousand men, most infantry, south of us. Taylor has perhaps as many at Alexandria, and it is probable that they may be united at the latter place. Banks has some doubtless in his front about Opelousas.

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NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

LATEST DESPATCHES

FROM KENTUCKY.

LOUISVILLE, MARCH 29.—The express train which left Louisville on Monday morning for Lebanon was captured by guerrillas and two passenger cars were burned. A guard of seventeen Federal soldiers on the train surrendered without firing a gun. This guard has been ordered to Louisville under arrest.

Federal scouts have proceeded some four miles beyond Bull's Gap and report no signs of Longstreet's forces.

CAIRO, MARCH 29 -The rebel General Forrest, with a orce estimated at seven thousand, is reported within eight miles of Columbus, Kentucky, last night. They cut the telegraph lines between that place and Calro yes-

About forty more persons, captured by the rebels at Union City, arrived here last night. They report that only two hundred and fifty prisoners were captured with Col. Hawkins, and parties of them are escaping every

A SERIOUS AFFRAY IN ILLINOIS.

ST. LOUIS, MARCH 29 .- A special despatch to the Denocrat, from Charleston, Coles county, says that the copperheads" came into that town to attend court yesterday with guns concealed in their wagons and armed with pistols. Some soldiers in the court-house yard were drawn into an affray and a general fight occurred. The county Sheriff sprang from the Judge's stand and commesoed firing a pistol at the Union men. Msjor York, a surgeon of the 54th, was one of the first victims. The Union men, being outnumbered at the court-house, ran to the houses and stores for arms, and they were fired upon from the windows. Ten or twelve men were wounded. Col. Mitchell, of the 54th regiment, was badly wounded: Col. Mitchell, of the 54th regiment, was badly wounded; Oliver Sales was killed; James Gooderick, William Hart, L. C. Jeffreys, and several soldiers belonging to the 54th were wounded severely. The 54th regiment arrived in the afternoon and formed on the square. Nelson We'ls, who fired the first shot, was instantly killed. John Cooper, a prisoner, was shot while trying to escape. Colonel Brooks, with a squad of men, went in pursuit of a gang of copperheads, about seven miles distant. Capt. Williamson has some twenty prominent secesh implicated in the son has some twenty prominent secesh implicated in the affair under guard at the court-house. Col. Mitchell had a conference with the Hon. O. B. Franklin and Judge Constable, who seem d very anxious that steps should be taken to prevent any further outbreak.

CHICAGO, MARCH 30 .- A special despatch to the Triune, dated Mattoon, (Ill.) last night, says:

"Four hundred men of the Fifty-fourth Illinois regiment leave Charleston to night to attack the r-bels, who are said to be three hundred strong, under Sheriff John S. O'Hare, entrenched at Gillady's mills, ten miles northeast of Charleston. A portion of the Fifty-fourth is at Mattoon, that place also being threatened by the rebels from Shelby and Moultrie counties. Two companies of the Veteran Reserve corps, en route for Springfield, have been stopped at Charleston for garrison duty. Pickets are out on all the roads. In the fight on Monday four of the Fifty-fourth and one Union citizen were killed, and Col. Mitchell and five privates and two Union citizens wounded. Two rebelo were killed and several wounded.'

EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE.

HALIFAX, MARCH 30 .-- The steamship Africa, from iverpool on the 19th instant, has arrived.

The London Daily News of the 18th announces authoritatively that Denmark has accepted the proposed conference, on the basis of negotiations of 1851-2, without an armistice. The consent of the Germanic Confederation is now necessary, and it is doubtful if they will assent on the pasis named.

The belligerents in Denmark show increasing activity. The Germans are vigorously prosecuting the siege of Dupel. That place was vigorously bombarded on the 16th.

A sharp naval engagement had taken place off Ragsen Island, between a line of Danish steamers and two Prus sian men of war and several gunboats, resulting in the withdrawal of the Prussian ships, closely pursued by the Danes. The Prussian vessels, however, succeeded in reaching port in safety.

Late Berlin despatches state that the Prussians are ready to open fire across the Wemimburg.

DECISION UNDER THE PROCLAMATION.

The substance of a decision made last week by the Su oreme Court of the District of Columbia is reported as of his property under the President's proclamation should. with n the prescribed sixty days, "cease to aid, countennee, and abet such rebellion, and return to his allegiance to the United States;" and that the simple "removal from a rebellious to a loyal State was not intended to be the evidence of such returned allegiance." This decision was made in the case of Wm. Shields, who left Washington in April, 1861, for Richmond, where he remained until August last, and then went to Baltimere. His property in Washington being seized, he sought to prevent its condemnation on the ground that he had done no treasonable act since the passage of the confiscation act. The court, however, decided, as above stated, that his mere removal to Balt, more was not what the law required, but that he must have established the fact of his restored loyalty by some act of solemn and decided import, before he could be admitted to claim the benefit of the law. His property was therefore declared condemned.

SOUTHERN NEWS.

The Norfolk Old Domir ... ass received a copy of the Richmond Enquirer of the 25th instant. The news is noimportant. We give the following extracts:

EAST TENNESSEE.

We have the report from East Tennessee that the Yankees, who had advanced as far east as Morristown, have again taken the back track and retired to Strawberry Plains, only some fifteen or twenty miles from Knoxville. The retreat of the enemy has dissipated, for the present at least, all prospects of a fight. The enlistment of colored troops in Middle Tennessee goes on rapidly. At Shelbyville and Lebsnon there are five thousand ready for

FROM JOHNSTON'S ARMY. DALTON, (Ga.) MARCH 22 -The enemy have retired from our front, and their recent movements are supposed to be only reconnoissances. A heavy snow fell here last night and to day. It lies four inches deep. Our troops have captured the post of Arkausas.

DALTON, (GA.) MARCH 24.—All quiet on our front.

The enemy show no disposition to engage our forces. ANTI-SUBSTITUTE LAW.

Macon, (Ga.) March 22—The supreme Court of Georgia to day unanimously affirmed the constitutionality of the Confederate anti-substitute law. Gen. Pillow has een placed in command of the cavalry of the Northern District of Alabama

GEORGIA WHEAT CROP.

The crops in Georgia are represented as looking very The crops in Georgia are represented as looking very encouragingly. In some sections the growing wheat has been injured by the frost, but the general impression is that a few good, warm rains will revive it. Thus far every thing looks promising for a good crop this year.

FROM FLORIDA. Information had been received by the military authorities at Lake City, Florida, on Sunday evening last, that the Yankees had landed a force at Pilatka. The force landed at that point is not known, but it was rumored that it was large. Gen. Finnegan had dispatched forces to meet them, consisting of cavalry, infantry, and artillery. Our pickets in front of Jacksonville confirm previous intelligence that the greatest portion of the enemy's troops had left that place. Every thing continued quiet in the neighborhood of Jacksonville.

SUFFERING IN RIGHMOND.

The Enquirer publishes so appeal to the benevolent in behalf of suidiers' families and other poor of the city, which says: "The poor have not been able to procure supplies at the shops established by the City Councils, even at the reduced prices charged by the committee." The appeal states that pressing necessity exists for immediate and to prevent absolute suffering.

HEAVY SNOW STORM.

RICHMOND, MARCH 23.—The heaviest snow storm of two winters, it is presumed, did not slight Petersburg yesterday and last night. The average depth is about twelve inches, and some affirm that it is deeper. To-day was ushered in with a cloudless sky, and merry ringing of sleigh bells, the latter pastime at the tune of twenty dol-Banks has some doubtless in his front about Declousas.

The Red river has not been used for large transports or gunboats since May last, being hitherto too low. The Webb, Missouri, Grand Duke, and Mary Keene are at Shreveport armed. The distances on this river from the Shreveport armed. The distances on this river from the Mississippi are: Black river, 40 miles; DeRussey, 70 come, and give a truce to any intention of activity on the mart of the enemy.